

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M:26/14

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic The Pump House

other Rockville Pumping Station, Pumping Station & Electric Plant, Rockville Electric Lights & Water Works

### 2. Location

street and number 401 South Horners Lane not for publication

city, town Rockville vicinity

county Montgomery

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name City of Rockville

street and number 111 Maryland Avenue telephone 240-314-5000

city, town Rockville state MD zip code 20850

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse liber JA58 folio 168 Pumping Station

city, town Rockville tax map GR42 tax parcel P203 tax ID number 150343

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☒ Other: Measured Drawings at Peerless Rockville (301-762-0096)

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<input type="checkbox"/> Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

## 7. Description

Inventory No. 26-14

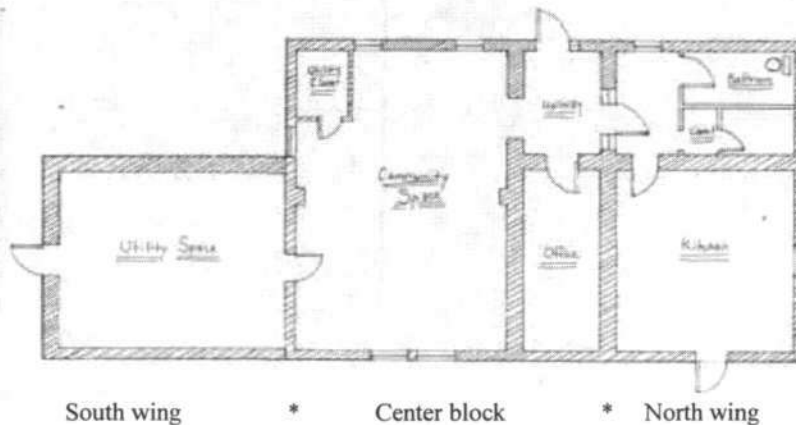
### Condition

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### Summary

The Pump House, a Victorian era public utility building, is a one-story brick building with three distinct sections. The center portion is square in form and has a pyramidal roof and cupola. On either end, there is a shed-roofed wing that sits below the wide eaves of the central block. A portion of the brick wing on the south side of the building dates to the original construction, and the south wing was enlarged to its current configuration by 1908. The concrete block wing on the north side was built between ca. 1957. The main entrance is located on the east elevation. The brick is currently painted beige; trim is painted white; there are black shutters on the windows on the east elevation only. The doors and window openings have been down-sized for replacement elements. The original door and window sills and lintels are stone; non-original windows have brick sills. There are three brick chimneys of differing date, but the one at the SW corner is original. South Horners Lane runs along the east side of the site. Today, the street has been blocked off to through traffic with a circular turn-around, a sidewalk and landscaping. The building now serves as a community center, with a parking lot in the area south of the building, and a public park to the north and west.



Plan and front elevation drawings prepared 2003, for Peerless Rockville under the direction of Corri Jimenez

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 26/14

Name  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

The Pump House consists of a brick central block and two side wings. The center block measures 32' square, and has a pyramidal roof topped with a cupola. The basic design includes shallow pilasters at each corner to hold up the deep fascia board under the wide eaves. To this basic design, a large chimney base was added at the southwest corner, and subsequent chimneys have been added at the NE and SE corners. The brick is laid in American bond (7-stretchers to 1-headers), with stone lintels and sills at original openings. All of the original door and window openings have been altered and/or downsized. The center block of the Pump House has asphalt shingles on the pyramidal roof. The wide eaves measure approximately 18" and there is a complementary wood trim band under the eaves, which measures approximately 1'. The small cupola measures approximately 5' square, and it also has a pyramidal roof with asphalt shingles. A metal weather vane sits atop the cupola, with a bird alighting on a ball mounted on the north arrow. The north, east and south faces of the cupola are filled in, while the west face has two ventilation openings. The brick south wing has a shed roof and measures approximately 18' x 32'. The concrete block north wing also has a shed roof, and measures 23' x 19' with the west side flush with the west elevation of the main block.

The East (front) façade has three-bays on the central block, with a side hallway on the south side and a large room to the north. The double-width front door has been reduced in both height and width within the original opening that is still apparent. The door opening has a stone lintel measuring approximately 10" in depth approximately 30" above the height of the existing doorway. The current doorway has a Greek Revival style wood frame with implied fluted pilasters, corner blocks, and fluting above the door. There is a single-leaf solid flush door and a smaller in-fill side panel with two narrow windows. To the right of the entrance, replacement windows are set within the two original window openings. The new window configuration includes a wood in-fill panel above a double-hung 6/6 wood window, with flanking shutters attached to the brick wall. The small brick addition at the south side of the building has a shed roof that begins under the eaves of the center portion of the building. There are two double-hung windows on this south addition, and a low chimney at the south corner.

The South (left side) elevation of the brick shed-roof addition extends the full-width of the center block of the Pump House. Two doorways have been blocked up on this elevation. One has been altered for a small window. There are no stone lintels on this elevation.

The West (rear) elevation of the central portion of the Pump House has paired double-hung replacement 2/2 (horizontally divided) windows in a downsized opening. The lintel appears to be wood, while the [stone] sill has been parged and painted. Its smooth rectangular shape stands in contrast to the rustic stone lintels and sills on the front façade. To the right of these windows, two stacked window openings that are next to the remnant of the original brick chimney have been filled in. The top window extends all the way to the wooden fascia under the eaves. With decorative relieving arches on each of the three exposed facades and a decorative brick band above, the chimney remnant measures approximately 2'x3' and stands 14' tall, ending at the bottom of the soffit.<sup>1</sup> A wooden enclosure has been built at the north side of the chimney to hide a heat condenser. There is a single doorway on the west elevation of the brick shed-roof addition. A single window has been blocked up on the west elevation of the concrete block shed-roof addition.

The North (right side) façade of the Pump House has a concrete block addition that is held back from the front (east) façade, but is flush with the west façade. This shed-roof addition measures approximately 19' wide by 23' long. The roof sits under the original eaves of the main block of the Pump House. It has a single door on the north façade, and a single window on the east façade, which is designed to match the existing infill windows on the east façade. It has an in-fill panel above the 2/2 double-hung window, and flanking non-functioning shutters. A window opening on the west side of this addition has been blocked up. The door and two windows are centered on their respective elevations. Where the concrete block addition has been held back from the east façade, a

<sup>1</sup> The chimney stack originally extended to a height of 50', as documented in the Sanborn maps 1908, 1915.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M : 26/14

Name  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 2

---

single original window opening may be seen. This also contains a down-sized replacement double-hung window with a wood panel above. Directly to the left of this window, a narrow brick chimney has been inserted that cuts through the eaves to bring the chimney above the roof.



## 8. Significance

Inventory No. M:26/14

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

**Specific dates** 1913 Typhoid Outbreak **Architect/Builder** George Morgan, Engineer

**Construction dates** 1896-1897

Evaluation for:

☒ National Register ☒ Maryland Register ☐ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### Summary

The Pump House is significant for its role in the development of public utilities (water, sewer, electricity) in the City of Rockville and in the Washington Metropolitan region. The town constructed its new Rockville Electric Light and Water Works in 1896, at a time of increased understanding of epidemic diseases such as typhoid, and cholera. That the town's water system, originating at the Pump House, was the source for typhoid fever during the Christmas-New Year's holiday season of 1913-1914, was documented in a report by the State Department of Health and by the United States Public Health Service.<sup>2</sup> This spurred the development of a municipal-wide sewerage system (completed in 1916) to complement the water system. This federal publication was also used nationwide to illustrate the problems associated with the delivery of clean drinking water and sewerage contamination. Locally, this was addressed on a larger scale with the creation of the bi-county water/sewer agency, WSSC, by the General Assembly in 1918.

### Land transactions/deed research

#### East Rockville vicinity

The Pump House was built east of the B&O Railroad tracks on what had been farmland up until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. William Brewer (1777-1861) was born in Anne Arundel County, and died in Montgomery County.<sup>3</sup> His third child was John Chiswell Brewer (1804-1868), who was a prominent Rockville lawyer<sup>4</sup> with five children. John C. Brewer bought up a lot of farmland east of Rockville from 1839 – 1847, including the property upon which the Pump House now sits. After his death, John C. Brewer's wife and children divided up the property. As part of the division in 1874, John B. Brewer received the 49-1/2 acres of land that lay east of the railroad line and north of the Baltimore Road, excepting the land conveyed to William Brewer in 1869.<sup>5</sup> The 1879 Hopkins Map shows two house sites in East Rockville labeled "Wm Brewer."<sup>6</sup>

<sup>2</sup> *Typhoid Fever in Rockville, MD; Report of an outbreak by an infected water supply from a deep well*, L. L. Lumsden, Public Health Bulletin #65, Treasury Department, United States Public Health Service, GPO, Washington, May, 1914.

<sup>3</sup> In the 1860 census for the 3<sup>rd</sup> District (centered around Poolesville), he is listed as a farmer, with real estate valued at \$15,500 and personal property at \$42,000.

<sup>4</sup> The 1860 census for the 4<sup>th</sup> District of Montgomery County (centered around Rockville) notes he is a lawyer, with \$70,000 in real estate and \$25,000 in personal property. He also helped with the petition that led to the incorporation of Rockville in 1860.

<sup>5</sup> E.B.P. 11/443-448.

<sup>6</sup> See Lot 8 Block D in Croydon Park. See E.B.P. 6/349 - land conveyed on 6/28/1869 to William Brewer (1847-1885) by Elizabeth Brewer (his mother), Ellen Brewer and John B. Brewer (his siblings).



# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M; 26/14

Name  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

In 1884, William Reading<sup>7</sup> bought this same 49-1/2 acre property from John B and Virginia R. Brewer<sup>8</sup> with a mortgage from the Sandy Spring Bank.<sup>9</sup> Reading also purchased the 28-5/8 acre parcel on the south side of the Baltimore Road from Edward E. Stonestreet a couple of months later.<sup>10</sup> William Reading died on December 29, 1897 in Rockville. His property was divided among his children, Hugh Capner, Joseph, Matilda, and John G.

### Municipal Annexation and the construction of the Water Works

Between 1865 and 1943, the town of Rockville grew in small increments. Nevertheless, by 1900, the town was triple its size of 1860.<sup>11</sup> In 1900, the town of Rockville included 354 acres of land, and a population of 1,110 people.<sup>12</sup> Most of the people lived on the west side of the Railroad tracks but there were people living along existing major roads, including the Baltimore Road<sup>13</sup> and Veirs Mill Road. Public utility systems were non-existent, although there are hints of the start of a water system with a notation that the Mayor and Council also ordered that a "new pump be purchased and placed in the well of Mrs. Rose Williams to be used as a town pump."<sup>14</sup> Individual homes relied on private wells for their water. Lacking a public sewerage system, individual homes used either residential water closets that discharged into septic tanks or private privies of varying construction, none of which could be considered "sanitary."<sup>15</sup> A contract for a public scavenger service was let in 1896. This required that night soil was removed of all privies within the corporate limits twice a month from May 1 to November 1, and once a month from November 1 to May 1.<sup>16</sup>

The incremental expansion of the corporate limits was noted in the *Mayor and Council Minutes*, such as the entry for March 10, 1896.<sup>17</sup> With the May election of 1896, the newly elected Mayor Joseph Reading<sup>18</sup> and the Council forged ahead with a goal to "encourage the investment of capital and the establishment of factories"<sup>19</sup> in the town. Very soon after the election, on May 20, 1896, the new Mayor and Council discussed building a town Waterworks. At that meeting, they established a committee of three to investigate the feasibility of such an installation. The committee would look into what type of system, and where it would drain and associated costs, the cost of construction, the annual maintenance costs and the potential annual income. Mayor and Council also ordered the bailiff to take a census to provide a current population figure. Other related issues at this time involved letting a contract for a Scavenger to clean and remove privy deposits on a regular basis,<sup>20</sup> and evaluating the installation of municipal electricity.

<sup>7</sup> William Reading was born in Hunterdon county, New Jersey in 1822, and died in Rockville in 1897. He moved to Washington, D.C. in 1853, and then to Rockville in 1883 (see *Sentinel* December 31, 1897, obituary), working as a lumber and coal merchant and then with real estate.

<sup>8</sup> E.B.P. 30.387

<sup>9</sup> 201/129; recorded April 10, 1897

<sup>10</sup> He platted "Reading's 1<sup>st</sup> Addition to Rockville" in 1888. This was replatted in 1893 as "Rockville Park."

<sup>11</sup> McGuckian, p. 75.

<sup>12</sup> McGuckian, p. 75.

<sup>13</sup> Public Health Bulletin, #65, p. 6 notes that there are 8 or 10 residences within 1,000 feet of the town well.

<sup>14</sup> *Minutes Book 21*, May 15, 1896.

<sup>15</sup> Public Health Bulletin, #65, page 4.

<sup>16</sup> Public Health Bulletin, No. 65, page 4; *Minutes Book 21*, June 3, 1896.

<sup>17</sup> *Minutes Book 21*. [check if this included ER's part of Rockville].

<sup>18</sup> In the 1900 census, Joseph Reading's occupation is listed as a "real estate dealer."

<sup>19</sup> *Minutes Book 21*, May 15, 1896.

<sup>20</sup> The town hired George W. Meads for municipal Scavenger services in July 1898 and paid him \$28 per month. He also took on the contract to clean the streets, for \$50/year.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 26/14

Name  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

In July 1896, the Mayor and Council reviewed a report by the Waterworks Committee where they stated a need for an accurate cost estimate.<sup>21</sup> They agreed to hire an engineer, George C. Morgan, to prepare detailed plans and estimates for the system. The Mayor and Council agreed to lease land from William Reading, with an option to purchase the property pending a drilling test. Bids to drill a test well were received two weeks later.<sup>22</sup> It wasn't until October 2, 1896 that Mr. Morgan presented his plans for the Waterworks. They were quickly accepted and three days later, the town entered into an agreement with Mr. Morgan for engineering and supervision of the construction of the Waterworks. The town hired D.E. Miller Artesian Well Drilling Company to drill an 8" diameter well to a depth of 224-1/4' at a cost of \$763.87. They solicited bids from financial groups to support a town bond effort to pay for the Waterworks. When the first choice, Grimke, withdrew in late December 1896, the town accepted the bid from the National Bank of Rockville Maryland to issue bonds for \$20,000 to fund the construction of the Waterworks.<sup>23</sup> Then, the town hired Rosser and Castoe of Bellaire, Ohio to build the Waterworks for a fee of \$16,888, under the supervision of Engineer Morgan.

In April 1897, the property for the Pump House was sold to the town for \$600 by William and Sarah Reading.<sup>24</sup> The deed describes the property in relation to new and former street names, as noted with the platting of Rockville Park in 1888. The new town property lay north of John Street (formerly, and currently, known as the Baltimore road), along the west edge of Jackson Street (formerly, and currently, known as Horners Lane). It contained 20,000 square feet of land, and measured 100' x 200'. According to the platting it was parts of Lots number 41 and 42 in William Reading's Second Addition to Rockville [sic].<sup>25</sup>

There were other land transactions related to the operation of the Pump House over time. Land was needed for a water tower to provide the necessary pressure to pump water throughout the town. While waiting for results of the well testing, the town went ahead to purchase land for the water tower. In December 1896, the town bought Lots 20 & 21 in Block 5 of the Rockville Park subdivision from Joseph R. Reading for \$369.60.<sup>26</sup> A series of water towers were to be built on this property; the last one was torn down in 2001, after approximately 3 years of inactivity.<sup>27</sup> Other related purchases included the 1916 sale to the town by Joseph Reading of a lot 453.9 feet along the west side of Horners Lane "on which the new well is located"<sup>28</sup>; and, the 1949 acquisition of the land directly north of the Pump House parcel.<sup>29</sup>

<sup>21</sup> *Minutes Book 21*, July 3, 1896; special meeting.

<sup>22</sup> *Minutes Book 21*, July 17, 1896.

<sup>23</sup> See unused coupon, dated 1897 in Rockville archives.

<sup>24</sup> JA 58/168; recorded April 17, 1897; saying "lots numbered 41 and 42 in William Reading's Second Addition to Rockville." This subdivision was perhaps intended, but not recorded. The larger property was subsequently entered as the Croydon Park subdivision in 1924.

<sup>25</sup> This is recorded in the property description of the Pump House property deed (JA 58/169). Reading's "1<sup>st</sup> Addition to Rockville" involved the land south of Baltimore Road, and a "2<sup>nd</sup> Addition" was never recorded with the State. In 1924, William Reading's sons platted the property north of Baltimore Road as "Croydon Park."

<sup>26</sup> JA 58/169 for \$369.60, recorded on 4/17/1897. The two lots had been sold to Joseph R. Reading and his wife by Washington Danenhower (L.J.A.34/23; July 6, 1892).

<sup>27</sup> "City topples outdated water tank," *Gazette*, Wednesday September 5, 2001. Today, the City owns three water towers: 1) Talbott Street tank (one million gallons of water); 2) Glen Mill Road / Hunting Hill tank (8 million gallons of water); and Carr Avenue tank (three million gallons of water).

<sup>28</sup> 258/140, recorded on 5/27/ 1916; Joseph Reading sells to Mayor and Council. The 1924 plat for Croydon Park identifies a lot at the corner of Woodland Road and N. Horners Lane as "Pump House." It measures 75' x 70' (5,250 sf; see L258/f 240). Today, the property is 102 N. Horners Lane.

<sup>29</sup> 1245/520, recorded on 4/15/1949; parts of Lots 15, 16 Block E, from John G. Reading to Mayor and Council. Today, this is part of the public park at the Pump House Community Center.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 26/14

Name  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

### Pump House History

The site selected for the new Rockville Electric Light and Water Works was a low-lying area east of the railroad tracks on "Jackson Street" with known springs and a meandering stream known as "Monkey Run" passing through. Federal officials later noted, "This stream drains a considerable portion of the town's most insanitary area and is practically an open sewer."<sup>30</sup> The 1897 Sanborn Insurance Map includes a notation that the Rockville Electric Light and Water Works is "being built." It had one Dynamo, "800 inc. lights," and used a Deane pump, with a capacity of pumping 75 gallons per minute. An 8" well pump at 397' above sea level (asl) sent the water to a Stand Pipe located on Grandin Avenue at 460 feet asl. The stand pipe was a typical shape for a water tower at the turn of the century. From this high point, water could be piped throughout the town. Water pipes had to be installed, and this was done in increments to individual homes.<sup>31</sup>

The new power plant was used for town water and electricity.<sup>32</sup> David M. Munroe was given the job of Engineer and Electrician at \$60/month. Thomas F. Monday was hired as the Assistant Engineer at \$30/month.<sup>33</sup> The Mayor and Council established rates for water and electricity. For example, they charged 30¢ per 1,000 gallons of water, plus an additional \$5.00 per year if you owned a bathtub. Electricity was billed at \$1.25 per month for 4 lights or less, with a maximum of \$3.70 per month if you had more than 15 lights. Barbers were charged by the chair, and cows were figured at a rate of \$1/annum. Shop keepers were variously charged. For example, soda fountains were charged \$3/annum, and oyster eating saloons were charged \$6/annum.<sup>34</sup>

A series of plan view drawings published by the Sanborn Map Company and drawn for insurance purposes is helpful for tracing physical alterations at the Pump House from 1897 to 1960. The maps provide such details as wall dimensions (thickness and height), building materials, type of engine on site, pumping capacity, and whether or not there was a watchman after midnight. The 1897 map notes use of 1 engine with a capacity of pumping 75 gallons per minute. The drawing also shows the piping to send water to the stand pipe [on Grandin Avenue]. The building is labeled "Rockville Electric Light and Water Works."

The Power House and its contents were destroyed by a fire on Friday night, May 17, 1901 between the hours of midnight and 2:00 a.m. Three days later, the Mayor and Council authorized Mr. William W. Welsh to make repairs at once and start the pump.<sup>35</sup> Problems with restarting the production of electricity may be reflected in the August decision of Mayor and Council to light the streets with oil.<sup>36</sup> When the 1903 Sanborn maps were published, the building was labeled "the Rockville Pumping Station." A second well had been added.<sup>37</sup> Two Columbia gasoline engines were used to power two Gould force pumps, with a combined capacity of 250

<sup>30</sup> Public Health Bulletin #65, p. 5.

<sup>31</sup> Minutes Book #21, April 6, 1897: "On a motion, the water main to be extended to the residence of Everett S. Beall, and also along Park Avenue to residence of Joseph N. Bailey, also down the City road to residence of Miss Blanche Braddock, and along Maryland Avenue to dividing line between Warfield and Wm. Dobson." At a follow-up meeting (8-30-1898), the Mayor and Council authorized cutting off the water for Miss Braddock for non-payment.

<sup>32</sup> There already were power poles along Washington and Jefferson Streets for on July 1, 1896, the Mayor and Council considered a request for the installation of new poles for telephone wiring, and decided to use the existing poles.

<sup>33</sup> Minutes Book #21, March 23, 1897

<sup>34</sup> Minutes Book #21, April 6, 1897.

<sup>35</sup> Minutes Book #21, May 20, 1901. Mayor and Council reported that the repairs were completed by December 4, 1901, including bracing the roof for \$669.00.

<sup>36</sup> Minutes Book #21, August 14, 1901.

<sup>37</sup> Minutes Book #21, February 17 [Mr. Welsh was directed to ask Fisher Brothers about boring a new well]; and, July 2, 1902 [the Mayor and Council met at the Power House to select a site for the new well].



# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. MI 26/14

Name  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 4

gallons per minute. The waterworks had been enlarged at the south side, bringing the footprint of this shed-roofed portion to its current configuration.

The 1908 Sanborn maps shows The Rockville Pumping Station and Electric plant with this same configuration, and it was back into the business of producing electricity.<sup>38</sup> Notation on the Sanborn map indicated that the plant operated until midnight, and that there was no regular watchman. They used a Horizontal steam boiler, along with the two gasoline engines to run the two Gould pumps. Capacity was still 250 gallons per minute. The building walls were 8" thick, and the floors were brick. The roofing materials were called out as "non-combustible", something that was important from an insurance company's point of view. The walls were described as 1-story 14' height, and 1-story 12' height.

While the town was concerned with sewage problems, including occasions when the Scavenger didn't follow regulations, or when private sewage systems failed to meet standards established by the Town Health Office<sup>39</sup> the need for more effective steps became apparent with the sorry events over the holiday season in 1913-14. Investigation into the causes of the typhoid outbreak, and the evidence of a relationship between the town's water system and the lack of a corporate sewerage system was established by the United States Public Health Service.<sup>40</sup> Twenty-eight people became sick with typhoid fever during this brief winter period, and three people actually died, including the son of Mayor Offutt. According to this report, the town expected a few typhoid cases each summer, but a winter outbreak was unheard of. The State Board of Health of Maryland made a request for assistance to the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service and Mr. Lumsden was sent out to investigate the outbreak on February 2, 1914. He and his staff worked quickly and determined that the cause of the infection was the inadequate well casing for the old Well #1 at the Pump House. Because of either a cracked casing, or the fact that the casing stopped at bedrock, local ground water intruded into Well #1 and the town's water supply. Mr. Lumsden was able to identify the source of the contamination as runoff from an unsanitary privy up the hill at a property on the north side of Baltimore Road, subsequently identified as 308 Baltimore Road, as well as water from a town stream known as "Monkey Run" that passed by the Pump House.

The town acted immediately upon the Public Health officials' recommendations and ordered the treatment of the town's water supply on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The whole system was flushed with hypochlorite of lime, including the well, the cylindrical steel tank in the pumping station and the standpipe on Grandin Avenue. A new hypochlorite plant was also added at the Pump House to provide continued treatment of the water. The flow of Monkey Run was facilitated, and drainage ditches constructed all around the Pump House to assure that surface waters were drawn away from the site before they could percolate into the town's water system. In addition, the health officer recommended a radical improvement in the general sanitary conditions of the town, particularly, with the collection and disposal of human waste and the town agreed on the need for a municipal sewerage system. To provide for rapid construction of such a system, the town approached the State for authorization to issue bonds, not exceeding \$50,000, to fund the construction of a sewerage system. Ezra B. Whitman of Baltimore was hired to build a complete sewerage system.<sup>41</sup>

Problems with the production of clean water were addressed, and water production increased by 1915. With the installation of a third well at the Pump House site, the town now had the capacity to pump 342 gallons per minute. A new concrete reservoir was added to the south of the Pump House that could hold 75,000 gallons of water. A new 8" water pipe for public service was added under Jackson Street. Renovations of the Pump House are indicated with a notation that the walls of both portions of the building (square

<sup>38</sup> McGuckian, *MHT state inventory form*, 1976. Production of electricity was re-instituted in 1905. However, in 1909, the Potomac Electric Power Company was granted the franchise to provide electricity to the city.

<sup>39</sup> Minutes Book #22, September 26, 1912.

<sup>40</sup> "Typhoid Fever in Rockville, MD., by L. L. Lumsden.

<sup>41</sup> Minutes Book #22, May 20, 1914..

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 26/14

Name  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 5

center block, and south side wing) were 15' high. This is a change from the original construction with center block walls at 14' high, and side wing walls at 12' high.

In 1916, the Mayor and Council resolved that all premises be connected to the town sewer system by October 1<sup>st</sup> of that year. The sewer system consisted of piping from each property to centralized trunk lines that sent the waste water to a treatment site. It was determined that each property generated sufficient waste water to flush the system pipes. Once the water was treated, it was discharged into the natural watersheds.<sup>42</sup> At this time, too, the Mayor and Council ordered the Clerk to record a deed of sale by Joseph Reading to the town of Rockville for a lot "on which a new well is located." The new pumping station was to be staffed by C. Bean.<sup>43</sup> The additional well evidently subsidized the three existing wells at the Pump House site.

In the 1924 Sanborn survey of Rockville, there were some additional buildings added to the Pumping Station and Electric Plant property. This included a long, narrow one-story structure close to Jackson Street labeled "A" for auto house, or garage. A small shed was added at the back (west) of the property and a one-story Sewer Pump House was also constructed on Jackson Street. As this was a low point topographically, a sewer pump was required to move sewage into the general system. There were no other changes to the Pump House building itself, with three operating pumps and a watchman now on site.

Croydon Park was platted in 1924 by Joseph Reading and John G. Reading. With this plat, Jackson Street was renamed as Horners Lane. Existing structures within the new subdivision included the old Pumping Station, a Pump House at the corner of Woodland Road and Horners Lane, James Welsh's property fronting Baltimore Road in Block C, William Brewer's old house facing Croydon Avenue in Block D, and a home along Maple Drive in Block F. The 466 lots included in this plat were mostly 25' wide, with corner lots typically measuring 30 feet wide. With angled streets, and a large triangular park along Park Road, the lots varied in depth, typically from 145' to 120'. Typically, the lots were sold in groups to provide lots of varying size with at least 50' of road frontage.

The Pump House served a dual purpose after the Public Works Department was stationed there ca. 1932.<sup>44</sup> There were many changes in the town as well, including the construction of a municipal wastewater treatment plant on Cabin John Parkway.<sup>45</sup> There were several small pumping stations throughout the town, such as the one located on the Pump House property. Alterations to accommodate the needs of the Public Works Department are reflected in the 1949 Sanborn map. This drawing shows that a central hallway and office were constructed by dividing the large square room at the Pump House into two areas. The room to the north continued to house two wells and associated pumps. The south shed addition housed a single well. Water was pumped to the 75,000 gallon concrete reservoir, and then out an 8" water pipe to the water tower on Grandin Avenue. A small 1-story addition was added on the west façade, which most likely housed stairs leading to a new 2<sup>nd</sup> story area for staff.<sup>46</sup> A pumping station for a sewer pump was still on site, at the southeast corner at Horners Lane. The one-story auto house was enlarged along Horners Lane as well.

The 1950s marked very big changes in Rockville, including its growth from a "town" to a "city." By 1951, the population had

<sup>42</sup> The City includes three watersheds: Rock Creek, Watts Branch, Cabin John. The sewerage pipes are designed to work with the natural topography, which also reflects the natural drainage of each watershed. The biggest concern is to maintain separation between the citywide water system and the citywide sewerage system.

<sup>43</sup> Minutes Book #22, May 17, 1916. See Liber 258/f 240. The property is now identified as 102 North Horners Lane. This property was sold by the town in 1939 to John R. Mills. Mr. Mills and his family were instrumental in the development of many properties in East Rockville.

<sup>44</sup> "Speaking of Rockville", February 1962, Vol. VI, #2.

<sup>45</sup> "Sewer Report - Cabin John Valley" by John G. McDonald, City Manager, 1954.

<sup>46</sup> Information from Byron Turner (May 2005), Operations Maintenance Superintendent, recalling exterior stairs leading to a 2<sup>nd</sup> story within the Pump House. A low bricked-in opening, on the west façade, at the appropriate level is visible.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 26/14

Name  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 6

outstripped the wastewater treatment capacity of the Cabin John Parkway city facility. The City and the State worked together to reach an agreement in 1953 to close the City facility and connect into the regional WSSC system. The supervisor of the Cabin John facility, Lloyd Taylor, was transferred to a new position as the Assistant Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds.<sup>47</sup> The other significant change that arose because of the growing population in Rockville was the construction of a new water treatment plant for the City, which drew its water from the Potomac River. This plant was constructed in 1956-57, and the official opening ceremony was held on October 17, 1958. The plant opened under the direction of Superintendent William Sizemore. With this new plant, the City abandoned approximately 30 deep wells, including those at the Pump House.<sup>48</sup>

As recorded in the 1960 Sanborn map, the concrete block addition on the north side of the building had been built. The two wells had been removed from the main room of the Pump House. Pumps continued to operate in the small addition on the north side, as well as having one pump in the south shed addition. These three water pumps were used to maintain pressure at the Grandin Avenue water tank. A very large concrete stand pipe with a capacity of one million gallons was constructed on lots 10-16 of Block E.<sup>49</sup> Water from the Potomac River was sent to this tank, and was then pumped to the elevated water tank on Grandin Avenue as needed to maintain the required pressure. A large one-story equipment shed had been built next to this stand pipe, and the rambling one-story garage building had been removed. The sewer pumping house was still shown in the 1960 Sanborn map.

As reported in the City newsletter of February 1962, "Rockville's surging growth has again spelled the doom of a long outmoded public building..."<sup>50</sup> The City was ready to move the Department of Public Works to a new building on the grounds of the Civic Center, and demolish the Pump House. This proposal, however, was contested as new ideas were put forward for a new use of the Pump House. The City's Director of Recreation, Neil Ofsthun, proposed renovating the building and surrounding land for a neighborhood meeting house and playground.<sup>51</sup> The *Sentinel* article also reported that the pumps in the north wing were still operating, but were "scarcely audible." The Pump House served as the City's first Senior Center for many years.

The Pump House continued to provide a dual use for the City until 1998. Up to that time, internal pumps still forced the water in the surface tank adjacent to the Pump House into the water tower on Grandin Avenue. This, however, was discontinued in 1998. After some debate while the tanks stood empty for three years, the city witnessed the demolition of the surface tank and the Grandin Avenue water tower in 2001. Today, the Pump House serves as a local community center for East Rockville, and as the centerpiece of a City park. Plans for a renovation of the building are underway, and the work will assure that this important structure will continue to serve the Rockville community for years to come.

<sup>47</sup> This eventually became our Department of Recreation and Parks. Information from Byron Turner, DPW, City of Rockville.

<sup>48</sup> "Ceremony set for 8:30 p.m. at Court House", *Sentinel* October 16, 1958, p. 1.

<sup>49</sup> Check deeds for purchase information.

<sup>50</sup> "Speaking of Rockville", February 1962, Vol. VI, #2.

<sup>51</sup> "Pump House Civic Use Eyed by Rockville" by Betta Grouell, *Sentinel*, September 24, 1964.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. M:26/14

*Typhoid Fever in Rockville, MD; Report of an outbreak by an infected water supply from a deep well*, L. L. Lumsden, Public

Health Bulletin #65, Treasury Department, United States Public Health Service, GPO, Washington, May, 1914.

*M-NCPPC Inventory of Historic Sites*, Eileen McGuckian, Park Historian's Office, Rockville, MD 1976.

Minute Books of the Mayor and Council

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 0.459

Acreage of historical setting 0.459

Quadrangle name Rockville, MD-VA.

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

From Deed JA 58/169: Subdivision 201, P 203:

"Beginning for the same at a point at the end of 468.62 feet on a line drawn south 55 degrees west from a stone heretofore planted at the intersection of the north edge of John Street (formerly known as the Baltimore road) with the west edge of Jackson Street (formerly known as Horners Lane) and running thence with said edge of said lane north 50 degrees west 200 feet, then at right angles south 40 degrees West, 100 feet, then parallel to the first line, south 50 degrees East 200 feet, then south 40 degrees west 100 feet to the beginning. Containing 20,000 square feet of land, the same being parts of Lots number 41 and 42 in William Reading's Second Addition to Rockville . . ."

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Robin D. Ziek, Historic Preservation Planner		
organization	City of Rockville	date	May 16, 2005
street & number	111 Maryland Avenue	telephone	240-314-8200
city or town	Rockville	state	MD

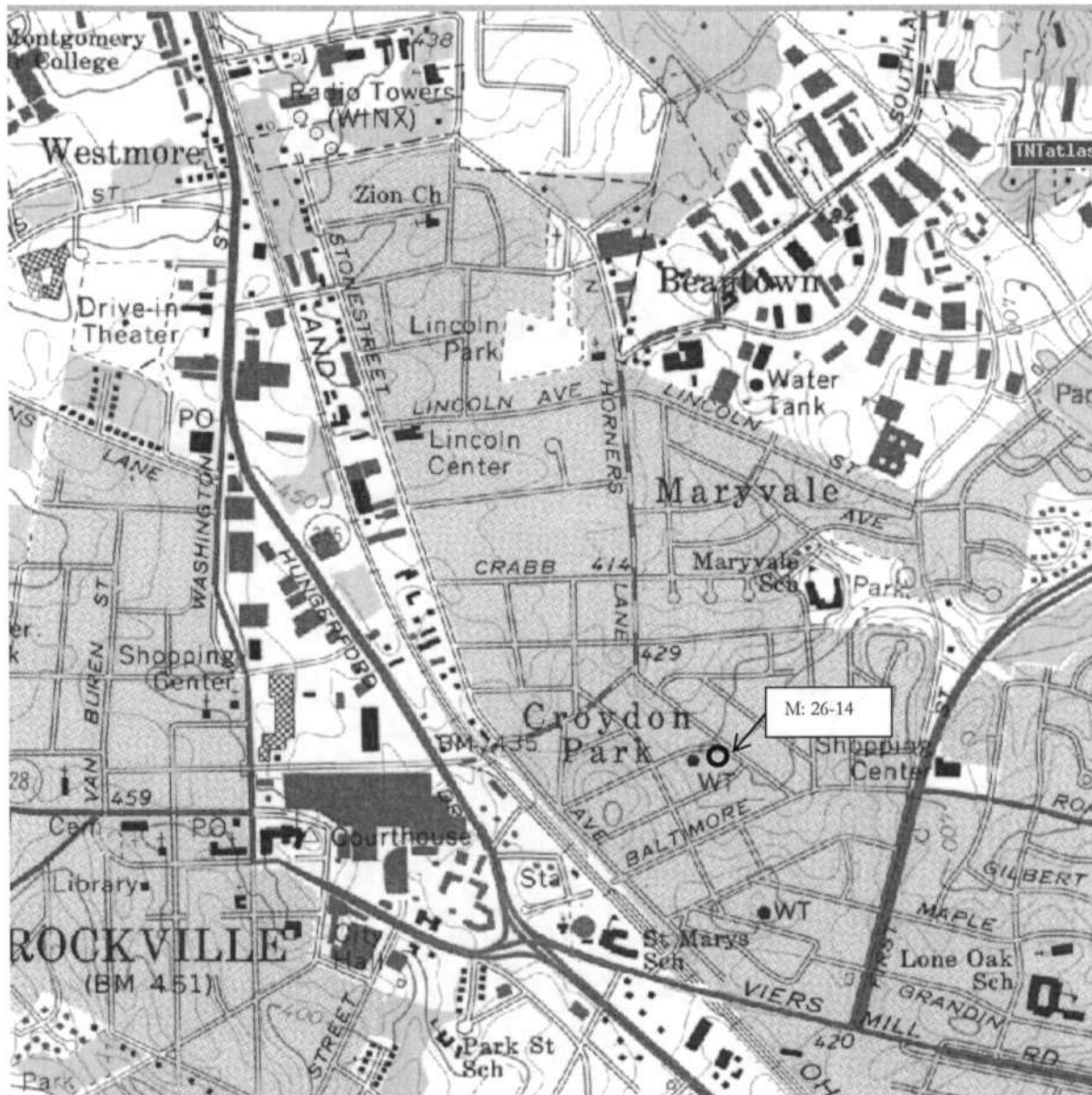
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

M: 26-14

The Pump House/Rockville Electric Light & Waterworks  
401 South Horner's Lane  
Rockville, MD  
USGS Rockville Quad





## ACHS SUMMARY FORM

M:26-14

(date entered 5-12-80)

1. Name: Pump House

MAGI #1651373601

(# assigned 11/86)

2. Planning Area/Site Number: 26/14

3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 15  
I-12

4. Address: 401 South Horners Lane, Rockville

## 5. Classification Summary

Category buildingOwnership publicPublic Acquisition NAStatus occupiedAccessible yes: restrictedPresent use government/parkPrevious Survey Recording M-NCPPCTitle and Date: Inventory of Historical  
Sites - 1976Federal      State X County X Local     

6. Date: 1896-7

7. Original Owner: City of Rockville

## 8. Apparent Condition

a. fairb. alteredc. original site

9. Description: This is a square, 1-story brick building painted beige, with a very steep hip roof. This roof is capped by a small, lantern-like cupola, that also has a hip roof. The bricks are quite rough. The building has wide brick pilasters at the corners of each wall. A shed-roof, two-bay brick wing is built onto the south end of the building. The main section has a 3-bay east facade, with the entrance set in the south end-bay. This consists of double doors, recessed into a wide frame, that is accented by an ornamental wooden architrave on the outside. The windows here seem to have been reduced at one time in height to their present, 6/6 sash. The openings have rough-hewn stone sills and lintels. The windows of the south wing also have stone sills, but are low, 6/6 openings. Brick stove flues occur in the wing at the outside SE corner, and in the main section, inside the NE corner wall.

10. Significance: From 1865 to 1900 Rockville changed from a sleepy courthouse town to a bustling resort and commuter village. Its population tripled, and the services needed for the increased housing multiplied accordingly.

In 1896, the Mayor & Council authorized construction of a waterworks and electric plant to serve the village. By August of 1897, the plant was substantially in place, and what we now know as the Pump House (although perhaps not in its present form) was operating. The Council established a rate of 30¢ per 1,000 gallons for water (\$5 per year more if you owned a bathtub); for electricity, the bill was \$1.25 per month for 4 lights or less, and on up to \$3.70 if you had more than 15 light.

Rockville had municipal water and electricity before the turn of the century, but in 1901, the power house and contents were destroyed by fire and it was not until 1905 that the electric plant was again operable. In the meantime, the city of Rockville went back to oil lamps.

In November of 1909, the Potomac Electric Power Company was granted a franchise to provide electric power, and thus the city went out of the electric power business. However, the pumping of water continued from wells until 1957, when the water system tapping the Potomac River was put into operation. The Pump House has subsequently been used for the waterworks, as a maintenance building, and now as a senior citizens center.

11. Researcher and date researched: Helen Heneghan, City Clerk - May 1979

Michael Dwyer-Arch. Desc.

12. Compiler: Eileen McGuckian

13. Date Compiled: 6/79

14. Designation  
Approval     

15. Acreage: 11,420 sq. ft.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Pump House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

401 South Horners Lane

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC  
☐ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE  
☐ COMMERCIAL  
☐ EDUCATIONAL  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT  
☒ GOVERNMENT  
☐ INDUSTRIAL  
☐ MILITARY  
☐ MUSEUM  
☒ PARK  
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

City of Rockville

Telephone #: 424-8000

STREET &amp; NUMBER

City Hall, Maryland at Vinson

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20850

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 1245

Folio #: 520

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland 20850

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

M-NCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE

1976

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☒ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland 20855

# 7 DESCRIPTION

M:26-14

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a most unusual structure, located near the center of "old" Rockville-apparently once at a flowing stream. It is a square, one-story brick building, with a very steep hip roof. This roof is capped by a small, lantern-like cupola, that also has a hip roof. The bricks are quite rough, and were probably made locally. The building was wide brick pilasters at the corners of each wall. A shed-roof, two-bay brick wing is built onto the south end of the building.

The main section has a three-bay east facade, with the entrance set in the south end-bay. This consists of double doors, recessed into a wide frame, that is accented by an ornamental wooden architrave on the outside. The windows here seem to have been reduced at one time in height to their present, 6/6 sash. The openings have rough-hewn stone sills and lintels. The windows of the south wing also have stone sills, but are low, 6/6 openings. Brick stove flues occur in the wing at the outside southeast corner, and in the main section, inside the northeast corner wall. The building is presently used as a meeting place for Rockville's "Senior Citizens". It has been painted beige.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

M: 26-14

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1896-7

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE From 1865 to 1900 Rockville changed from a sleepy courthouse town to a bustling resort and commuter village. Its population tripled, and the services needed for the increased housing multiplied accordingly.

In 1896, the Mayor and Council of Rockville hired George Morgan, an engineer, to draw up plans for a "waterworks and electric plant" to serve the village, and obtained an option on a piece of land fronting on Horner's Lane, owned by Joseph Reading (who was also Mayor at the time), so that a test water well could be drilled. The testing was successful, and the land was purchased for \$369.60 (3¢ a square foot). One Councilman voted against the purchase, feeling the price was too high. A well, 22 $\frac{1}{4}$  feet deep and 8 inches in diameter was dug from which the town would get its water supply.

In the same year, 1896, the Council authorized the construction of the water works and electric plant. By August of 1897, the plant was substantially in place, and what we now know as the Pump House (although perhaps not in its present form) was operating.

The Council established a rate of 30¢ per 1,000 gallons for water -- (\$5 per year more if you owned a bathtub); for electricity, the bill was \$1.25 per month for 4 lights or less, and on up to \$3.70 if you had more than 15 lights.

Rockville had municipal water and electricity before the turn of the century, but in 1901, the power house and contents were destroyed by fire and it was not until 1905 that the electric plant was again operable. In the meantime, the city of Rockville went back to oil lamps.

In July, 1902, the Mayor and Council selected a site for a new well, close to the original, and the second well was drilled.

In November of 1909, the Potomac Electric Power Company was granted a franchise to provide electric power, and thus the city went out of the electric power business. However, the pumping of water continued from wells until 1957, when the water system tapping the Potomac River was put into operation.

The Pump House (which probably got its name after the term "power house" became obsolete) was used for the water works, and later as a maintenance building/headquarters for public works operations, until the city moved that operation into a new building on the Civic Center grounds. The Pump House building was later renovated to what we see today, and is used as a center for Rockville's senior citizens.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Minutes of the Meetings of the Mayor and Council, Rockville, Maryland.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 11,420 sq. ft.

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

part of lots 15 & 16, block E, "Croyden Park"

**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Helen Heneghan, City Clerk

Michael Dwyer-Arch. Desc.

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

May 1979

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland 20753

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: ~~Maryland Historical Trust~~  
~~The Shaw House, 21 State Circle~~  
~~Annapolis, Maryland 21401~~  
~~(301) 267-1438~~

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS  
 Box 87, Stronghold  
 Dickerson, Md. 20753  
 (301) 926-4510



## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

City of Rockville Pump House

AND/OR COMMON

Pump House-Senior Citizens' Center

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

401 Horner's Lane

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

- ☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

- ☒ PUBLIC  
☐ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

- ☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

- ☐ AGRICULTURE  
☐ COMMERCIAL  
☐ EDUCATIONAL  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT  
☒ GOVERNMENT  
☐ INDUSTRIAL  
☐ MILITARY  
☐ MUSEUM  
☐ PARK  
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

City of Rockville

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

VICINITY OF

Maryland

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This is a most-unusual structure, located near the center of "old" Rockville-apparently once at a flowing stream. It is a square, one-story brick building, with a very-steep hip roof. This roof is capped by a small, lantern-like cupola, that also has a hip roof. The bricks are quite rough, and were probably made locally. The building has wide brick pilasters at the corners of each wall. A shed-roof, two-bay brick wing is built onto the south end of the building.

The main section has a three-bay east facade, with the entrance set in the south end-bay. This consists of double doors, recessed into a wide frame, that is accented by an ornamental wooden architrave on the outside. The windows here seem to have been reduced at one time in height to their present, 6/6 sash. The openings have rough-hewn stone sills and lintels. The windows of the south wing also have stone sills, but are low, 6/6 openings. Brick stove flues occur in the wing at the outside SE corner, and in the main section, inside the NE corner wall. The building is presently used as a meeting place for Rockville's "Senior Citizens". It has been painted beige.

M:26-14

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A very interesting building, from both an historical and architectural viewpoint. This is one of the very few surviving industrial or technological structures left in the County. Its relation to an early urbanization makes it most significant. Architecturally, it is the only structure of its type in the area.

M.26-14

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

5/14/75

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Ave.

TELEPHONE

589-1480

CITY OR TOWN

Silver Spring

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
267-1100





NAME PUMP HOUSE M. #26-14 (BIO HIST. DIST.)  
LOCATION CROYDON AVE. ROCKVILLE, MD.  
FACADE SE  
PHOTO TAKEN 5/14/75 MDWYER